

**BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

**NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

**January 14, 2002**

**IN RE: PETITION OF UNITED )  
TELEPHONE COMPANY TO )  
CHANGE AND INCREASE CERTAIN )  
INTRASTATE RATES AND CHARGES )  
SO AS TO PERMIT IT TO EARN A )  
FAIR AND ADEQUATE RATE OF )  
RETURN ON ITS PROPERTY USED )  
AND USEFUL IN FURNISHING )  
TELEPHONE SERVICE TO ITS )  
CUSTOMERS IN TENNESSEE AND )  
TO ADOPT NEW AND REALISTIC )  
DEPRECIATION RATES FOR )  
CENTRAL OFFICE EQUIPMENT )**

**DOCKET NO.  
01-00451**

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**AGREED ORDER PERMITTING QUESTIONS FROM THE AUTHORITY  
STAFF DURING THE HEARING**

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This matter came before the Pre-Hearing Officer for the approval of the agreement of the Parties to permit the limited participation of the Authority Staff at the hearing in this proceeding scheduled for January 14 and 15, 2002.

The Parties agreed to the participation of the Authority Staff upon conferring with the Pre-Hearing Officer at a Status Conference on January 11, 2002. At that time, the Parties agreed that the Authority Staff would be permitted to ask questions of witnesses during the hearing. Procedurally, the Parties agreed that the Authority Staff's questions of a witness will follow the Parties' direct and cross-examination of a witness and will precede re-direct examination of a witness. Finally, the Parties agreed that the Authority Staff will not become or be deemed a Party by its participation at the Hearing. The Pre-Hearing

Officer further notes in this case that there are staff members who are participating as a Party and who will not act in any advisory role.

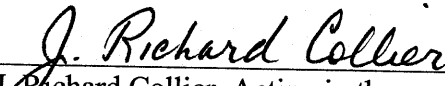
After discussion with the Parties and a review of the record in this matter, the Pre-Hearing Officer finds and concludes that:

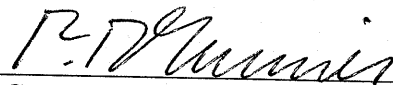
1. There are highly technical issues in this proceeding causing the Directors to benefit from the participation of the Authority Staff in the hearing;
2. The Parties agreed that, to the extent that the Authority Staff refrains from questioning which tends to suggest the espousal of one Party's position over the other, the participation of the Authority Staff does not remove them from the role of advisor;
3. The participation in the questioning of witnesses by the Authority Staff does not create an inference that the Authority Staff has become a Party to this proceeding; and
4. The Authority Staff's questions of a witness will follow the Parties' direct and cross-examination of a witness and will precede re-direct examination of a witness.

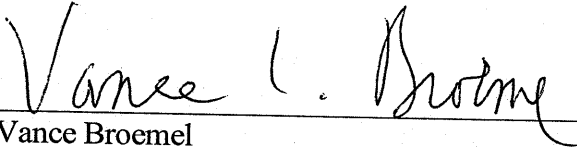
**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

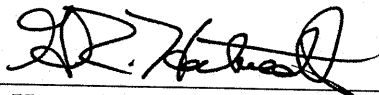
1. Members of the Authority Staff of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority shall be allowed to pose questions directly to the witnesses in this case proceeding;
2. Questions from the Authority Staff will follow the Parties' direct and cross-examination of a witness and will precede re-direct examination of a witness; and
3. The Parties have agreed that presenting questions does not remove the Authority Staff from its role as advisors, and in no way creates the inference that the

Authority Staff has become a Party to the proceeding or has acted outside of its purely advisory capacity;

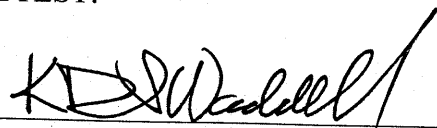
  
J. Richard Collier, Acting in the capacity  
of Pre-Hearing Officer

  
T. G. Pappas  
R. Dale Grimes  
United Telephone Company

  
Vance Broemel  
Consumer Advocate Division  
Office of the Attorney General

  
Gary Hotvedt  
Counsel for Authority Staff as a Party  
Tennessee Regulatory Authority

ATTEST:

  
K. David Waddell, Executive Secretary